

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 IO-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3658

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11370

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VC

SUBJECT: MR 3 WEEKLY OVERVIEW- JUNE 17-23, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM BIEN HOA JUNE 22
REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE BIEN HOA 0222

1. IF THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS AND OTHER MILITARY ACTIVITY
CAN BE USED AS CRITERIA, THE " REAL CEASE- FIRE" TOOK HOLD FAIRLY
WELL IN MR 3. IN THE WEEK ENDING AT 0800 HOURS JUNE 22 MR 3
TOC REPORTED 114 MILITARY INCIDENTS (INCLUDING 15 IN THE FOUR
HOURS BEFORE NOON JUNE 15), DOWN SIGNIFICATNTLY FROM THE PREVIOUS
SEVERAL WEEKS. GVN ARTILLERY FIRE WAS ALSO CERTAINLY DOWN AND
WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF AIR SORTIES. INCIDENTS WERE MOSTLY LIGHT
AND SCATTERED, BUT THEY WERE CONCENTRATED IN PHUOC TUY, WHERE
TWO SIDES WERE STILL IN MILITARY CONTACT AFTER A LAST- MINUTE
GVN MOVE INTO CONTESTED AREAS NEAR GVN- CONTROLLED POPULATED
AREAS; AND IN TRANG BANG DISTRICT OF HAU NGHIA AND HIEU THIEN
AND KHIEM HANH DISTRICTS IN SOUTHERN TAY NINH, WHERE THERE
MAY HAVE BEEN SOME GVN MAIN FORCE UNITS CONDUCTING SWEEPS IN
CONTESTED AREAS. COMMUNISTS AND GVN BOTH APPEAR GENERALLY
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TO BE RESPECTING CEASE- FIRE, AND SOME INCIDENTS ARE PROBABLY
ATTRIBUTABLE TO INADVERTENT CLASHES OF PATROLS, AND OLD MINES.

2. ASIDE FROM THE CEASE- FIRE ITSELF, HOWEVER, NONE OF THE OTHER
PROVISIONS OF THE JUNE 13 JOINT COMMUNIQUE HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED
IN MR 3. IN PARTICULAR, WE HAVE NO REPORTS THAT OPPOSING
FIELD COMMANDERS HAVE MET MOR EVEN CONTACTED EACH OTHER.

3. AT BEGINNING OF REPORTING PERIOD ICCS V HAD HIGH HOPES
OF RESUMING REGULAR HELICOPTER SHUTTLE SERVICE TO AN LOC
TEAMSITE, AND TO RECCE XA MAT TEAMSITE WITH VIEW TOWARD EARLY
DEPLOYMENT OF ALL FOUR CHIPDELS. DUT FIRST FLIGHT, ON JUNE 17,
WAS DIRED UPON BY AK-47 JUST AFTER IT ENTERED PRG- CONTROLLED
AREA ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY 13 ABOVE LAI KHE. ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT
CLEAR WHETHER THIS WAS LONG PRG SOLDIER WHO HAD NOT GOT THE
WORD-- AND OF COURSE PRG WAS DENYING ITS MEN WERE INVOLVED--
FIRING PUT ICCS OFF THE IDEA. ON JUNE 19 HELICOPTER RETURNED
FROM AN LOC WITH ROTATION OF INDIVIDUAL DELEGATIONS, AND ALL
INDODELS-- WHO WERE CARRYING OUT EARLIER WITHDRAWAL ORDERS
FROM SAIGON. WE UNDERSTAND FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY
REGARDING PRG SECURITY GUARANTEES FRO FLIGHTS TO AN LOC AND
RECCE OF XA MAT, INTO WHICH COMMUNISTS ARE MOST ANXIOUS TO MOVE.

4. REACTION TO COMMUNIQUE AMONG GVN AND RVNAF PEOPLE AWARE OF
ITS CONTENTS RANGES FROM INDIFFERENCE-- BECAUSE IT SIMPLY
REITIERATES PROVISIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOLS--
TO CONCERN-- BECAUSE IT TENDS TO STRENGTHEN THE PRG' S DESIRE
FOR POLITICAL FREEDOM TO OPERATE THROUGHOUT SVN WHILE AT SAME
TIME MAINTAINING CERTAIN RECOGNIZED PRG- CONTROLLED ZONES WHICH
COULD BECOME SEPARATE STATE . THESE OFFICIALS HAVE NO FAITH
IN GOODWILL OF PRG AND DRV , AND IMPLY DISSATISFACTION WITH
CONTINUED US PRESSURE ON GVN IN CONNECTION WITH SVN INTERNAL
AFFAIRS. SIGNED WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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